

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
and Science
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
and Science
1036 Longworth
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Cartwright:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2025 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you include robust funding for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). It is critical that EOIR has the resources they need to ensure due process within our immigration process and secure our border.

EOIR cites the backlog of immigration cases waiting to be adjudicated as the largest single issue facing the immigration courts today. At the end of 2021, immigration courts had a 1.4 million case backlog, with the pandemic and policy changes from the previous administration exacerbating an already stressed system. And although the Biden Administration has prioritized funding EOIR over the past three years, the backlog grew to nearly 1.8 million cases pending by the end of 2022 and nearly 2.8 million cases by the start of 2024.

This growing backlog impedes the proper functioning of our immigration system, creating a significant barrier for people legally seeking asylum, migrants, pregnant women, and people with disabilities that seek to enter the United States. These complex cases can take up to seven years before receiving a hearing, leaving migrants, families, and communities in legal limbo as they wait for hearings and decisions. As we seek to address immigration and border security more broadly, funding EOIR is one important way we can help address issues in our immigration system and bolster national security today.

It is critical that EOIR has sufficient resources to ensure a well-functioning and fair system. For these reasons, we request that Congress include robust funding for EOIR to hire more judges and decrease the current backlog. We strongly urge you to provide robust funding for this program in the Fiscal Year 2025 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



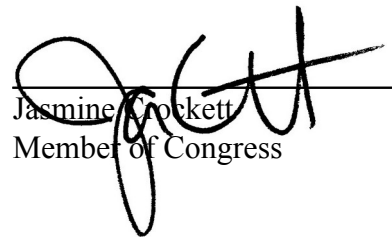
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



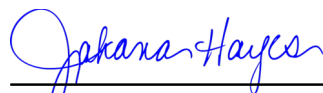
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho
Sablan
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



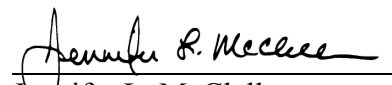
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



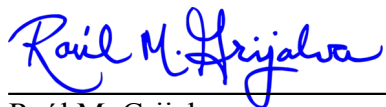
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



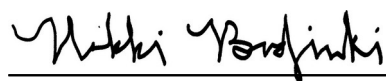
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



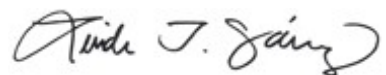
Dina Titus
Member of Congress




Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



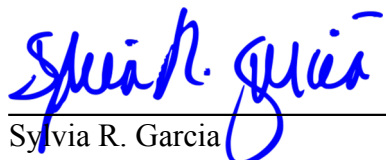
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



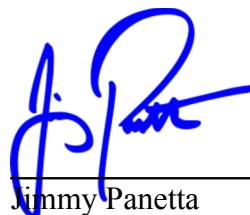
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



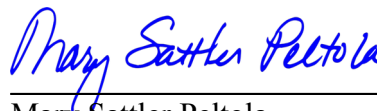
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Mary Sattler Peltola
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



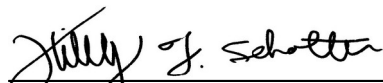
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



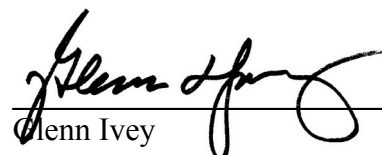
James A. Himes
Member of Congress




Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

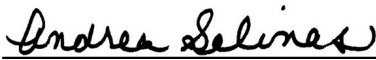


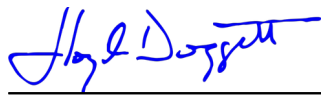
Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress





Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress


Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

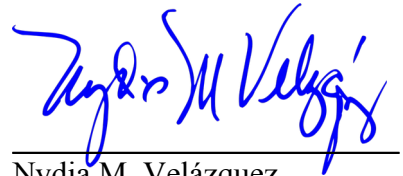

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress


Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress


Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress




Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



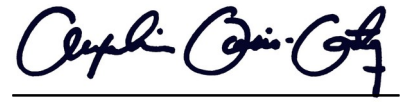
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



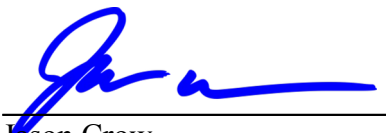
Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



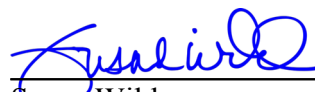
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



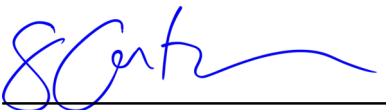
Kathy E. Manning
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



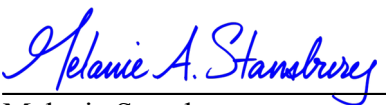
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



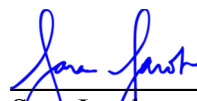
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



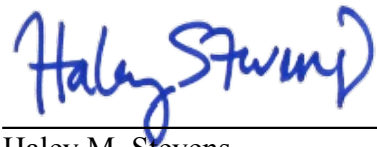
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress